

group noted that they fall in between the systems engineer and the warfighter. This gives them the ability to evaluate and critique the "heart of the envelope."

Moreover, they believed that improvements in the following areas would be helpful to the testers.

- Better crossover between training and testing personnel, parallel integration at the technical/teacher level and test/training command level.
- Piggy-back tests on training evolution.
- Opportunities for distributed collaboration among unique facilities and in solving problems associated with federal release of spectral bandwidth.

Additional areas needing improvement include the development of common architecture for the instrumentation of testing and training; separation of the essence from the implementation for runtime, reconstruction, and differing needs; validation by the "Warfighter-in-the-Loop;" and improvements in digital data collection (embedded meta-data for ex-post facto reconstruction and multiple end users).

Industry Perspective

The conference audience also heard the views of industry presented by corporate leaders from the Economic Development Council of Mid-Florida, Northrop Grumman, Logicon Corporation, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), and the University of Central Florida.

Allied Nations

Various allied nations are making progress in implementing cooperation between testing and training communities. The conference audience heard from Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom on their efforts and opportunities for partnering with these nations.

Resounding Themes – Small Steps Toward Implementation

After the presentations, briefings, and brainstorming, the task of getting these collaborated suggestions from paper to implementation becomes the real challenge. The answer may be found by looking at the recurring themes that surfaced throughout the conference.

The most prominent themes among the keynote speakers, panelists, and participants included the need for earlier involvement of testers in the development of weapons systems; earlier introduction of simulation into the process; increased collaboration to improve data collection procedures so that testers and trainers can both benefit from documented lessons learned; bringing realistic scenarios to both testing and training; and more concentration on finding ways to leverage technology and research capabilities among government facilities, industry, and academia.

With each theme, every suggestion, and the countless discussions emerging from the conference, ultimately comes the framework for the successful formulation of a "21st Century Partnership." And with this partnership lies the potential for testers and trainers to take one small step toward implementation of these ideas, along the path that leads these two communities to fulfilling their most important priority of all – to test weapons systems and conduct training *the way the 21st century warfighter fights*.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT INTERN PROGRAM

Deidre Lee, Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy, announced the launching of the Government-wide Acquisition Management Intern Program in October 1999. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), the first class of interns is scheduled to arrive in June 2000. "I appreciate the efforts of the Procurement Executive Council's Acquisition Workforce Subcommittee in pulling this together," said Lee. "Certainly, we want to take advantage of this opportunity. I look forward to wide participation by departments and agencies as we launch the first class of the Government-wide Acquisition Management Intern Program."

A generic Memorandum of Understanding that expresses the terms of the program; a generic Reimbursable Support Agreement that exchanges funds; a program description; and an itemized projected budget can be downloaded from the ARNet Web site at <http://www.arnet.gov/Updates/gwamip.html>.

For further information on the program, contact:

Kay Mathews
Dolores Chacon

DOI
DOI University

(202) 208-2757
(202) 208-5616



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